

### Introduction

“Community Policing” is the policing philosophy of the Brookline Police Department. It involves a collaborative effort on the part of the citizens and the police to work together to solve community problems. This relationship allows for the residents of the town to take an active roll in the quality of life they wish for their community. This type of policing informs the police department of what is important to the residents and allows for their input and resources to help bring about a desirable community.

The Brookline Police Department’s Community Service Division is responsible for facilitating this spirit of cooperation between the public and the Department. This is done by being the liaison between citizen and business groups, and the department in ways that informs, educates and communicates information necessary for all parties. More specifically this is done through community meetings, media, internet and other communication devices. It informs the public of what is going on within the town and allows citizen groups to express their needs and wants to the department.

Overall our police department is a community service oriented department. Our division even though it is titled community service, it’s function is to support all the community service directed activities of the other divisions of the department. It would better be described as the second layer of community service that we provide to the residents of the town.

The Commanding Officer of the Community Service Division, Captain John D. O'Leary, serves as a liaison between the department and the community. He provides for a proper relationship between the Police Department and all groups and social agencies in this ethnically diverse community of Brookline.

### **General Duties and Responsibilities**

It is the duty and responsibility of the Commanding Officer of the Community Service Division to:

- Organize programs that promote unity and a spirit cooperation among all segments of the community and the Police Department.
- Arrange for the participation of the Division in the programs of as many social agencies as possible. This includes the use of the resources of the total community as well as the availability of all contributions of the Division.
- Maintain an initiative departmental campaign for improvement of the community.
- Educate the public and members of the Department so as to make them conscious of the need for close Police-Community relations.
- Establish programs to improve the image of the Department in the community.
- Serve as the Departmental liaison to and member of the Human Relations Youth Resource Commission.
- Supervise and implement programs in the crime prevention field.
- Supervise the activities of such programs as the Walk and Talk Unit, the AWARE Program, and the Bicycle Unit.
- Supervise the activities of the Safety/Crime Prevention Officer.
- Serve as Public Information Officer for the Department. Also supervises the activities of the Press Officer and all media related issues arising from the Brookline Police Department.
- Supervise and review, along with the Chief of Police and the Training Lieutenant, all in-service training of Brookline Police Department personnel.

### **The Brookline Police Department and Community Policing**

The mission of the Brookline Police Department is to insure that community policing is a philosophy that permeates our entire Department and is not just a program involving a few officers.

Already we have taken several steps in achieving this goal:

- In 1991 we established a walk and talk program which to this day has wide approval from the general community. In September of 1995 this program was expanded to cover seven nights a week.

-

In November 1994, the 136 sworn officers of our department were given in-service training in the community policing philosophy, which continues today, as an ongoing process through communications, programs within the department, and direction from individual officers and officers in leadership positions.

- We have made, and are continuing to make changes in our policies and procedures that promote decentralization which allows the police officer at the delivery point of service and problem solving, to have the authority to design a strategy for aggressively attacking identified problems.

-

Neighborhood Groups are one of the many partnerships that are developed with the citizens of our community. We continue to use the community policing philosophy, as a strategy for involving the community in the identification and solving of problems.

Our ultimate goal in community policing is to improve the quality of life in the community by maintaining neighborhoods without fear, and by mobilizing the residents as partners in identifying community problems and developing comprehensive strategies to address these problems.

## Community Policing Division Programs

## **Training Division**

The Brookline Police Department Training Division is committed to providing its Officers with the best law enforcement training available — utilizing the most effective and efficient technologies, and up to date methodologies that are relevant and instructionally sound. We constantly strive to create an atmosphere that is conducive to the learning process, and represents the values and highest traditions of professionalism embraced by the Brookline Police Department.

The Brookline Police receive 48 hours of training annually included are courses consisting of Firearms, Defensive Tactics, Criminal Law updates, Domestic Violence, CPR and First Aid. With these and other trainings firmly in mind, we provide our Officers with the skills and knowledge necessary to successfully carry out department objectives, while embracing the Department's core values of integrity, respect, service, and fairness.

## **Media**

The media plays an important role in a democracy. As a result, it is an area of major concern for us. Our department takes this responsibility very seriously, and understands the need for an informed citizenry. We see our responsibility to keep the public informed about issues that concern their safety, as well as other issues that contribute to the general welfare of a community. Soliciting the public for its help in solving crimes or identifying criminals is important

for holding the perpetrators responsible for their crimes. Informing the public of their responsibility in crime prevention and deterrence is also necessary in the fight against crime.

## **Police and Schools Collaboration Education**

The Brookline Police Department in a collaborative effort with the Brookline School Department have developed a series of courses designed to educate students in the following areas:

1. Internet Safety
2. Teen Dating Violence
3. Bullying

These programs are targeted toward middle school students, but also have a follow-up curriculum at the high school level. The main goal of these programs is the safety of the students and to provide a safe learning environment. The courses educate the students about the social challenges they may face, and ways to identify them and strategies to deal with those

challenges.

These programs inform students of unacceptable social behaviors, their potential consequences, their affect on the victims, what crimes these behaviors may constitute, and strategies that students can use to avoid becoming victims. Ultimately, the programs hope to prevent negative behaviors and decisions made by students, or if they are victims to empower them to protect themselves.

Another component of these programs is the use of peer leadership students from the high school. This brings students that have just recently went through the experiences that middle school students are facing and provides a closer age and experience connection to the students. It has proven to be a very effective tool in the education process.

## **Aware Program**

The Aware program is a collaborative effort by law enforcement officers, educators, students, parents, and community to offer an educational program in the classroom to prevent or reduce drug abuse, bullying and violent behaviors among the youth. The emphasis is to help students recognize and resist the many direct and subtle pressures that influence them to experiment with alcohol, tobacco, inhalants, or other drugs or to engage in bullying or other violent behaviors. This program is directed towards the students in the sixth grade of our elementary schools.

### **Walk & Talk Program**

The officers assigned to the Walk & Talk program, within the Community Service Division, are the main liaisons between Brookline Housing Authority (BHA) Administrators, personnel, and residents, and the police department. The goals of the Walk & Talk program are to make the officers approachable to the residents and vice versa, help them become familiar with the dynamics of housing life and to identify any residents in need of assistance. Through a combination of foot patrol, bike patrol, motorized patrol and attendance at community

meetings/events these officers are highly visible to the residents.

In many situations, the officers get to know the residents on a first name basis developing a level of comfort that will result in BHA residents becoming more trusting of the police. We find they are more apt to speak with the Walk & Talk officers, let them know of potentially developing problems and report crimes. The officers are also informed by the residents about the community building people and happenings taking place within the properties.

These officers spend a large amount of time interacting with juveniles throughout the town. They keep informed about these juveniles through weekly meetings such as the roundtable at Brookline High School, through coaching of youth teams and collaborative efforts with the juvenile probation department. Through this interactions the officers, again, get to know the youths by their first names and are thereby known and familiar to the youths. This interaction enables the officer to develop positive relationships with the youths or to identify those youths that need early intervention strategies. These types of relationships enable the officers to better connect a youth in crisis with needed resources.

Finally, these officers are also responsible for the investigation and documentation of graffiti crimes, and then ultimately the coordination of the removal of graffiti from both public and private property.



## **Community Service Officers**

There are three community service officers, whose work involves support services to the patrol, traffic, and detective divisions, through neighbor or group mediation, problem-solving, use of additional town needed resources

, and follow-up investigations. A lot of this work deals with special populations such as the elderly, homeless, and people in need of mental health resources.

Other community oriented programs would include crime prevention and safety programs, drug and alcohol awareness particularly within the schools, graffiti, CPR/First Aid, emergency awareness and preparedness to name a few major ones.

## **Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness**

In the last three years, our Division has taken on the responsibility for the Department's training and preparation in the event of a man-made or natural disaster taking place within the Town or its surrounding areas that affect the life and property of our residents and visitors. The following is a short list of some of the initiatives that have been undertaken to ensure a comprehensive and coordinated effort on the part of public safety and citizen groups.

- Continue to establish and maintain robust working relationships with local, regional and state emergency management partners.
- EMT - Emergency Management Team
- Facilitate communication, cooperation and coordination to emergency responses affecting Brookline and surrounding area.
- Continue to work as MEMA point of contact for EMT
- Obtain and deploy mass notification system to alert the public regarding critical incidents in a timely manner and measures to be taken to protect themselves.
- Continue to document individuals needing specific assistance during emergencies
  
- Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
- Evacuation and mass care sheltering:
- Complete revisions to local evacuation plan
  
- Critical Infrastructure Monitoring (CIM)
- CERT /MRC
- Complete training of 5<sup>th</sup> CERT class,
- Work with current CERT and MRC members on continuing education and training
  
- Schools
- Look into use of ACAMS to document school building plans, photographs, and emergency response plans
- Work on evacuation and lockdown drills at all public schools in Brookline
- Work with School Department on distribution of "Brookline Schools Crisis Response Procedures"
- Reach out to private schools to encourage development of emergency plans if not already completed.
  
- Religious Institutions
- Continue close working relationships with Jewish and other religious institutions
- Offer Temple Security Briefing for High Holidays
- Offer Emergency Preparedness Training for institutions